

ROTHWELL  
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

(Northants)

THE  
ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE  
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

JOHN MORE,

FOR  
1925.

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MARLOW AND SON, PRINTERS, ROTHWELL.



# Medical Officer's Report,

## 1925.



GENTLEMEN,

I herewith present to you my Annual Report for the year ending December 31st, 1925.

In accordance with the requirements of the Ministry of Health, this year's Report has to be of a more comprehensive character than those of the last few years.

### 1.—Natural and Social Conditions of the Area.

Area of Sanitary District	...	...	Acres	3638
Population, Census 1921	...	...	...	4368
„ (estimated) 1925	...	...	...	4617
Number of Inhabited Houses. (1921)	...	...	...	1073
„ Families (1921)	...	...	...	1073
„ Separate Dwellings	...	...	...	1062
Rateable Value	...	...	£22,231	15s.
Sum represented by Penny Rate	...	...	...	£70

The chief occupation of the inhabitants is the boot and shoe industry, whilst the agricultural implement and ironstone works employ a good number, and a fair amount of women and girls find employment in the corset and clothing factories of neighbouring towns.

The Hospitals available at Kettering, Leicester and Northampton are freely used and much appreciated by those cases which necessitate hospital treatment. A fund is raised in the town for hospital purposes.

The factories being in an excellent sanitary condition and well ventilated, no prejudicial effect on the general health of the workers has been noticeable.

Any small improvement that I suggested when visiting the factories was immediately carried out.



## 2.—Extracts from Vital Statistics of Year 1925.

			M.	F.	Total
BIRTHS.	Legitimate	...	34	38	72
	Illegitimate	...	3	—	3
					—
					75

This gives a birth-rate of 16·2.

			M.	F.	Total
DEATHS	...	...	18	20	38

This gives a death-rate of 8·2.

DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER 1 YEAR	...	5
Infant mortality per 1,000 births, 66·7.		

It is satisfactory to note that the birth-rate is slightly higher and the death-rate considerably lower than that of last year. Indeed, the death-rate of 8·2 for a manufacturing town of this size, is one that a health resort might envy.

I regret that the infant mortality rate is not quite so satisfactory this year, but last year was a particularly good one, and with the excellent work of the Infant Welfare Centre and the Health Visitor to help expectant and nursing mothers, matters are greatly improving on the whole.

POOR LAW RELIEF.—The amount of Poor Law Relief distributed is only normal.

### General Provision of Health Services to the Area.

#### Hospitals.

TUBERCULOSIS.—The Sanatorium at Rushden is available for cases from this town.

FEVER.—I should like to congratulate the Council, and the town generally, on the fact that during the year the scheme has materialized for sending infectious cases to the Kettering Infectious Diseases Hospital. In one or two cases already it has proved of the greatest value, notably in one case of Scarlet Fever, which broke out in a house where the mother was expecting to be confined immediately, which would have



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meant great risk had the Scarlet Fever case been nursed in the home. It is naturally a great expense, but I have no hesitation in saying that it is a most excellent investment, and, I might add, a matter of intense relief to your Medical Officer.

SMALL POX.—The existing Small Pox Hospital being quite uninhabitable, and accommodation only existing on paper, arrangements were made with the authorities at Kettering that any Small Pox cases should be sent to their Hospital, and the only three cases which occurred in this town were removed there within a very few hours.

AMBULANCE FACILITIES.—(a) For infectious cases, the Motor Ambulance from Kettering is sent over to remove cases to the Kettering Infectious Hospital. (b) For non-infectious and accident cases, the Kettering and Desborough Motor Ambulances are available for conveyance of patients from this district.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS.—The Medical Officer is a part-time Officer. The Sanitary Inspector is a whole-time appointment, combined with that of Surveyor.

HEALTH VISITOR.—A Health Visitor, provided by the County Council, visits the homes of infants regularly up to the age of one year. Miss Panton, who, as always, works with great tact and ability, was away for the latter part of the year, and Miss Hitchcock, who came in her place, carried on the work most satisfactorily.

GENERAL NURSING.—There is a District Nurse for general nursing. Nurse Hurry, who has been with us now for a good many years, is looked upon as a friend, as well as a District Nurse by her patients. The Nursing Association is worked by a local Committee and is affiliated to the County Nursing Association. The financial position is extremely satisfactory, owing to a penny a week subscription from the members, and the substantial help which comes from the Butlin Football Cup, so generously given by Captain Butlin.

The District Nurse also acts as midwife, and the arrangement works out quite satisfactorily.





INFECTIOUS DISEASES.—On the whole, I think we can consider ourselves extremely fortunate in the matter of Infectious Diseases, during the last five years, especially considering that until the latter part of 1925, we have had no Infectious Diseases Hospital to which any case could be removed.

In 1921 there were 13 cases of Diphtheria spread out over the year, and in many different parts of the town; no specific cause could be traced.

In 1923 and early 1924, we had an epidemic of Scarlet Fever, but, luckily, of an extremely mild type, only one death occurring out of 129 cases.

Antitoxins are supplied by the Urban Council.

In 1925, 36 cases of Scarlet Fever were notified, one of which proved fatal.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS)  
DURING THE YEAR 1925.

DISEASE	Total Cases Notified	Cases admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths
Small Pox .. ...	3	3	1
Scarlet Fever ... ..	36	2	
Diphtheria ... ..			
Enteric Fever (including Paratyphoid) ... ..			
Puerperal Fever ... ..			3
Pneumonia ... ..	2		
Erysipelas ... ..	4		
Chicken Pox ... ..	20		

SMALL POX.—Owing to Small Pox being existent in the neighbourhood, the Urban Council very wisely made Chicken Pox notifiable, and 20 cases were notified, all of a mild character. The order came into operation on March 9th, 1925, until the 31st August, 1925. As vaccination is a dead letter in Rothwell, except in the case of those vaccinated in the Army, a very sharp look out was kept for any signs of Small Pox, and in one or two doubtful cases expert advice was sought and obtained from the Ministry of Health. In one case it was proved not to be Small Pox, and in another the expert confirmed the diagnosis of Small Pox. Word was sent



from Kettering that a girl who had been working in a factory here had developed the disease the following day. Within a few hours every worker in the same room had been vaccinated, with very few exceptions, and those exceptions were not allowed out of their houses until the time of incubation had passed. One Rothwell youth, who had been staying in a house at Kettering where Small Pox had broken out, arrived very late one evening at my surgery, to ask whether he had better go to his home in Rothwell. On being advised to return to Kettering, he did so at once, and as he shortly afterwards contracted the disease, he probably saved us from another centre of infection. In all, we only had three cases, which were immediately removed to the Kettering Small Pox Hospital, and, in each case, every contact was vaccinated or kept within doors. I should like, at this point, to thank most cordially the Urban Council for the free hand they gave me, as their Medical Officer, throughout the whole period of anxiety, and the splendid way they backed me up in any suggestion I made. I should also like to thank the manufacturers for their co-operation in the matter, and I think it is largely due to these two facts that we came off so lightly; with so much coming and going between Kettering and Rothwell, we were indeed fortunate.

VACCINATIONS.—It may be of interest to note the number of Vaccinations during the past five years.

		Infants.	Adults.
1920	...	2	1 (R.)
1921	...	2	4 (these were going abroad)
1922	...	—	3
1923	...	1	—
1924	...	1	—
1925	...	—	130 (P.) 143 (R.)—273.

Thus it will be seen that, except under exceptional circumstances, Vaccination is practically *non est* in Rothwell.

TUBERCULOSIS.—It is a wonderful record that there was no case of Tuberculosis notified during 1925, and only one death occurred. I think this speaks volumes for the healthy conditions in the factories, but I am afraid we cannot expect that this record could be maintained for another year, as of course, there are several cases still on the Tuberculosis list.



AGE PERIODS	NEW CASES.				DEATHS			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 1 year								
1—5								
5—10								
10—15								
15—20								
20—25								
25—35								
35—45						1		
45—55								
55—65								
65 and upward								
TOTALS						1		

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.—The Infant Welfare Centre is held once a fortnight, with the Doctor, the Health Visitor and the District Nurse in attendance. That it is appreciated by the mothers in the town is shown by the good average attendance throughout the year. A Lecture is generally given to the mothers during the afternoon by someone sent from Northampton for the purpose or by the District Nurse or Health Visitor. Of the five deaths under one year, two were from Bronchial Pneumonia, two from Cyanosis, and one Premature Birth.

There were no cases of Puerperal Fever nor Ophthalmia Neonatorum, and milk is supplied to nursing mothers in necessitous cases.

WATER.—The Waterworks are situate on the Shotwell Mill Estate, which is 42 acres in extent and was purchased by the Council in 1901. The supply is obtained from springs issuing from the porous ironstone strata of the Inferior Oolite series, which overlie the upper lias clays. The yield is variable, usually a maximum rate being reached in December or January, and the minimum in October.

The water is collected in tanks constructed on the estate and delivered into the Service Reservoir on the Rushton Road.





All water delivered into the Service Reservoir is filtered by a high-pressure filter of the "Bell" type.

An analysis of the water is taken periodically, the results being satisfactory.

DRAINAGE.—There is a dual system of drainage which is sufficient for the requirements of the town for some time to come. The sewage is treated by tank and land filtration.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.—There are no privies in the town, every w.c. having a separate water carriage system. Out of about 950 closets, one-half have automatic flushers, the remainder being hand-flushed, with the exception of 18 which are of the "Ducket" type of waste water flush.

SCAVENGING.—There are no ashpits or privies in the district, the house refuse being stored in sanitary bins, tins and buckets. This refuse is collected weekly by the Council and taken to the Sewage Disposal Works, where it is sorted and burned and the dry ashes carted on the land.

SANITARY INSPECTION.—During the year, 249 inspections of dwelling-houses were made, in which the following defects were noted :—

Defective and blocked drains	...	...	13
„ Spouting	...	...	3
„ w.c's.	...	...	4
„ yard paving	...	...	2
Structural defects	...	...	52
Number of informal notices served	...	...	17

Result—work carried out, 15 ; outstanding, 2.

SMOKE ABATEMENT.—The district is free from nuisance by smoke. All the factories use gas or electricity for lighting and power purposes.

PREMISES CONTROLLED BY BYELAWS.—There are no offensive trades carried on in this district, nor are there any lodging-houses or underground sleeping rooms.



SCHOOLS.—The sanitary condition and water supply of the Public Elementary Schools is satisfactory.

In consequence of an outbreak of Measles, the Infants' Departments of the Elementary Schools were closed for a month from 9th March to Easter.

BYELAWS.—During the year, new Byelaws respecting new streets and buildings were made by the Council and allowed by the Minister of Health on the 25th November, 1925.

HOUSING STATISTICS.—During the year, Housing progress was as follows:—

Houses completed	...	...	22
In course of erection	...	...	18

All are being provided with State assistance under the Housing Acts as follows:—

Local Authority—Houses completed	...	4
In course of erection	...	10
Private Enterprise—Houses completed	...	18
In course of erection	...	8

Under the Housing Acts the Council continue to give a subsidy of £90 for each house erected which comply with the Council's regulations.

MILK SUPPLY.—The Council are consistent members of the Kettering and District Daries, Cowsheds, etc., Joint Committee, and periodical reports are received from the Veterinary Surgeon.

These places have been kept under supervision, but nothing found to call for serious complaint.

SLAUGHTER-HOUSES.—There is no public Abattoir. There are six Slaughter-houses in the district—Registered 1; Licensed 5.

Frequent inspections of the slaughter-houses have been made.



Notification of all slaughtering is made as required by the Act, previous to which a voluntary arrangement was in force.

BAKEHOUSES.—These have been inspected and found to be quite sanitary.

FRIED FISH SHOPS.—Inspections have been made and these are found to comply with the regulations.

In conclusion, I should like to thank specially Mr. Addin Tyldesley, the Clerk, and Mr. Gregson, the Surveyor, for their willing co-operation with me in my work, and, once again, the whole Council for the confidence they placed in me during the anxious period we passed through in the Spring.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

JOHN MORE,

*Medical Officer of Health.*

